

markings exactly alike in every individual of the shoal, would indicate with tolerable certainty that it had never been observed before; for, had it been otherwise, these peculiarities, being so very striking, could not possibly have been overlooked. But this I leave to more profound naturalists to determine.

Kirkwall.

[There is little doubt that this Dolphin is *Lagenorhynchus leucopleurus* of my Catalogue of Cetacean Animals in the British Museum, published in 1850, p. 97, which Mr. Knox (under the name of *Delphinus Tursio*) describes as found at the Orkneys in May 1835. The skeleton of this specimen is in the Museum of the University of Edinburgh.—J. E. GRAY.]

XV.—On a new British Species of Rissoa.

By E. WALLER, Esq.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

Having accompanied my friend Mr. Jeffreys in several of his late excursions to the Shetland Islands, I have had the opportunity of seeing, on their first capture, many of the novelties added to our fauna in those distant and difficult dredgings. I know his unwillingness to anticipate the interest properly reserved for his 'British Conchology,' now in course of publication, by a previous description of any of the new shells; but I am tempted to infringe, with his permission, on this rule in one instance. In the home examination of sand obtained to the north of the Island of Unst, at a depth of 85 fathoms, I found a *Rissoa* which appears to have been hitherto undescribed and unnamed. I wish to couple with it the name of Mr. Jeffreys, whose persevering and long-continued labours have added so largely to our knowledge of British conchology. I would therefore feel obliged by your publishing in the 'Annals' the following description of *Rissoa Jeffreysi*, one of the novelties announced in the Report to the British Association (1863) on the Shetland dredgings.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Lissenderry, Aghnacloy,
June 29, 1864.

Your obedient Servant,
EDWARD WALLER.

Rissoa Jeffreysi, n. sp.

Shell conical, moderately strong, somewhat glossy and semi-transparent,
Colour white,

Whorls 5-6, sloping from the suture to the second ridge, and well rounded thence to the lower suture; the last whorl exceeding half the length of the shell, and obliquely rounded at the base.

Sculpture: on the penultimate whorl four rather slender but well-defined spiral ridges, the lower three of which are stronger than the highest one, which is on the upper slope of the whorl. The ridges are crossed by about twenty-eight perpendicular ribs, not so much elevated nor nearly so strong as the ridges, and forming with them square cancellations, the intersections of the ridges and ribs being scarcely raised, but slightly nodulous. The apical whorls are marked with spiral rows of close angular punctures. In each succeeding row the punctures lie below the ridges separating those of the preceding row. The base of the lowest whorl has 5-7 spiral ridges, for the most part uncrossed by the ribs, which generally terminate at the line of the upper part of the mouth.

Suture deeply defined and somewhat excavated.

Mouth roundish oval.

Outer lip smooth inside, and strengthened outside by a broad and strong rib.

Inner lip smooth and reflected on the pillar, making the peristome continuous.

Umbilical chink very small.

Length 0.10 inch, breadth 0.07 inch.

Its nearest ally is *Rissoa cimicoides*, Forbes (*Rissoa sculpta* of F. & H., but not of Philippi); but it differs from that species in being of smaller size and of thinner texture, in having the whorls more rounded and with a rapid slope from the deep suture to the second rib. The general outline is decidedly less conical; and while the longitudinal ribs are much the stronger in *R. cimicoides*, the transverse ones are stronger in *R. Jeffreysi*, and the nodules at the intersections are much larger in the former than in the latter shell. In the present species the sculpture is infinitely more delicate than in its ally. The throat is crenulated in *R. cimicoides*, but smooth in *R. Jeffreysi*. *R. cimicoides* is yellow, with purplish-brown blotches; *R. Jeffreysi* is porcelain-white.

Its habitat is in sandy ground, in from 80 to 85 fathoms; and it has been taken in two localities at about eight miles and thirty miles from Unst, the most northern of the Shetland Islands.

Mr. Jeffreys informs me that, when in Scandinavia, last year, he saw two or three specimens in the Museum at Upsala, col-

lected by Professor Lilljeborg on the coast of Norway, and about the same number at Stockholm, taken by Professor Lovén on the same coast. In both cases those shells were separated, as distinct from described species, but not named. Reference being made to Mr. Jeffreys, he recognized them, and mentioned my intention of describing the species and naming it after him.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 10, 1863.—E. W. H. Holdsworth, Esq., F.Z.S., in the Chair.

REMARKS ON THE EXHIBITION OF A NATURAL MUMMY OF *ALCA IMPENNIS*. BY ALFRED NEWTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

For the last twenty-one years, since the appearance of the part of Mr. Yarrell's 'History of British Birds' containing his account of *Alca impennis*, wherein was cited M. Audubon's statement that that species bred on an island in the neighbourhood of Newfoundland, the attention of ornithologists in this country has been more or less directed to that colony, in the hope of obtaining thence specimens of this rare and curious bird. Mr. John Wolley, with his usual sagacity, applying the knowledge he had culled from his extensive researches among the works of our older naturalists, not only soon made out the truth of Willughby's supposition, "*Penguin nautis nostratibus dicta, quæ Goifugel Hoieri esse videtur*" (Ornithologia, Lond. 1676, p. 242), but found that the name was still persistent among those who were yet engaged in the Cod-fishery in the Newfoundland seas. Among his various memoranda I find one, apparently written about the year 1850, to this effect:—

"In Newfoundland, Funk or Penguin Isle is 170 miles north of St. John's, and about thirty-six miles north-east by east from Cape Freels, the north headland of Bonavista Bay. There are also Penguin Isles two or three miles from shore; Penguin Islands, too, in the middle of the south coast of Newfoundland."

This note was evidently written after making a careful examination of the map; and I well remember, in February 1856, going over a chart of the North Atlantic with him, in which he had previously marked the various places known as "Penguin Island," "Bird Rock," and the like. To the best of my recollection, he also told me, either at the same or some former period, that in the course of his reading he had come across various notices of "Penguins," contained in the narratives of ancient voyages to that part of the world. All this time, however, I had not been altogether idle in the way of collecting (or at least seeking for) information on the subject. In the summer of 1853, as I have elsewhere stated*, a boatman at Torquay, then about seventy years of age, and by name William Stabb, told my

* 'Zoology of Ancient Europe,' London and Cambridge, 1862, p. 30.